JOURNAL OF THE

BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

VOLUME III #2 SUMMER 1990



Photographer unknown
Counting money inside a vault in the Treasury Department
About 1907. Records of the Public Buildings Service
(121-BA-3588).

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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is officially summer and here is your copy of the BCCS *Journal* available for a leisurely read! Experienced readers and collectors recognize that summertime marks a period when numismatics is usually subordinate to outdoor activities.

One yearly exception to the quiet numismatic scene in the summer is the ANA Convention, held in Chicago at the Rosemont Convention Center beginning August 11th. I've consulted with Russell and we expect this issue should arrive before ANA. Thus my 'selling' this event should be on a timely basis. To repeat past remarks: "The ANA Convention is unmatched by any coin show you ever attended." This covers everything from the local club show at the moose hall to the Florida FUN and Long Beach shows. It offers something for every collector and their families. It has appeal to the most advanced buyer looking for a six-figure coin on to someone completing a Fine set of Barber dimes. Chicago is an accessible city with many neat attractions. If you need any information or help with local arrangements, please call me at either number shown on page one.

I cannot over compliment the two Society individuals who accomplish the most on behalf of Barber collectors. Russell Easterbrooks puts each *Journal* together and produces an interesting and polished product. Paul Reuter keeps watch on the pulse of BCCS both from the financial and administrative vantage points. In particular, Paul recently analyzed membership renewals and dropouts. Our numbers have fallen behind the near 300 members we had in recent years. If you know local collectors with interests in Barbers, show them a copy of our *Journal*, invite them to request their own copy with a letter to Paul and finally, to join. I will be actively recruiting members at ANA in August. ❖

Planned shows I'll attend:
August ANA
Fall Baltimore

Numismatic regards,
Phil Carrigan





FROM THE EDITOR

Summer's heat has all but overshadowed winter's hardships, as we wish for cooler weather. Funny how this occurs every year about this time. Summer's activities, not to mention everyone's busy schedule, usually takes its toll on article summations for our *Journal*. Please take the time to send me your coin show activities, or collecting interests in the form of an article or letter.

The 50 state commerative coin program is in full swing, with three state coins now in circulation. The incredible interest this program has generated among young and new coin collectors is staggering! The five finial design ideas for the Vermont coin were finished, combining concepts by different people as assembled by our state's coin committee. I am proud to state that my design idea, along with the ideas of Steph Coolidge, were accepted as one of the five finalists! You can imagine my excitement when I received a call from the Governor's Office requesting me to attend the design unveiling.

Our design displays a sun rising over a mountain with a fallen maple leaf floating to the ground.



My contribution of the sun rising over the mountain was in reference to Vermont's first copper coin minted in Rupert Vt. in 1785. Steph stated her maple leaf and mountain landscape ideas were, "to show Vermont's simple and peaceful countryside." Interestingly, Steph has an Associates Degree in Illustration, and is currently attending Rochester Institute of Technology working on her Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Design! Should our design be chosen by the Governor early next year, Steph would have quite an achievement to add to her resume!

As your state accepts design ideas, be sure to contribute, as you may be part of numismatic history. ❖

Enjoy Collecting
Russell Easterbrooks



ANA CHICAGO HERITAGE AUCTION TO OFFER BARBER 10¢ VARIETY

Heritage, 1999 ANA auctioneer, will offer a Barber dime variety, the 1909-O over invert D. The coin is reported to grade Fine and may have been lightly cleaned in the past.

This variety is described by Dave Lawrence in his Barber Dime book and by Walter Breen in the Complete Encyclopedia. The variety is scarce to rare and was offered in the 1972 Paramount ANA Sale and more recently in a Stack's auction.

It should prove interesting to note the price level this lot eventually sells at and who buys the coin. Next issue, I'll have the hammer price and possibly the buyer.



I wish to thank Mark Van Winkle, Chief Cataloguer for Heritage for supplying the lot description and photo, under deadline.

1909-O/Inverted D Fine 12 Cleaned. Breen-3571. Lawrence-101. A fascinating overmintmark and the first such coin we have seen. Listed by Breen in his 1988 Encyclopedia as "very rare." David Lawrence merely states, "Scarcity of the RPM is unknown." The first time this variety was offered for sale was in Paramount's 1972 ANA sale, where a VF brought $120. The same piece sold several years ago for $125, plus the 10% buyer's premium. To further underscore the rarity of this overmintmark, we placed a call to Phil Carrigan, president of the Barber Coin Collector's Society. Phil was unaware of the value of this variety, but was most enthusiastic upon hearing this piece would definitely be placed in the ANA Sale.

The coin is a rather nondescript Fine 12 Barber dime; light in color, almost washed out in appearance. However, close examination of the mintmark reveals a straight edge from the first mintmark on the inside of the O. A gentle curve is seen in the field to the left of the final punch. Nothing else fits-- it has to be an O punched over an inverted D. Why an inverted D, we will probably never know. Perhaps the Denver mint considered this die to be little more than scrap, but then someone figured shipping it to New Orleans would be a way to salvage it and get some use from it. A very interesting coin and one that will surely see much bidding competition from both Barber collectors and those interested in mispunched coins. Accompanied by an ANAAB certificate of authenticity. ❖

BCCS Advertisement Rates

1/8 page	1 issue $12	4 issues $40	
1/4 page	1 issue $20	4 issues $70	
1/2 page	1 issue $30	4 issues $100	
1 page	1 issue $70	4 issues $250	
1 page inside front or rear cover	1 issue $80	4 issues $300	
1 page outside rear cover	1 issue $125	4 issues $400	

FROM THE VARIETY COORDINATOR

Now that summer is in full swing, numismatics tend to take a back seat, to other activities. If you are interested in obtaining and sharing information about die varieties please feel free to contact me. The member response has been limited so far. Having said that, I will share one of my personal discoveries.

The Fall 96 *Journal* has a photo of a 93 proof quarter with a repunched date. I wondered why it had never been noticed before with such a limited mintage and being a proof die. Indian cent proof dies were recycled for use in striking coins for commerce. Could this also be true for Barbers? Two years later I purchased an 1893 AU quarter with a RPD that was similar, but less pronounced. The date position was the same. After months of close scrutiny and several opinions, die markers were located that prove both coins were struck from the same obverse die. Study your coins carefully, you probably have treasures hiding in your sets! I will be attending the ANA in Chicago, and I look forward to meeting you. ❖

Happy hunting
Steve Szcerbiak



1893 All Quarter with RPD

UNDISCOVERED ANSWERS

by Russell Easterbrooks

Some time ago, I gave a presentation on Barber dimes to an area coin club. I was very surprised that information I discussed concerning the hub changes in 1901, were unheard of by the 24 attending members. As I explained J. R. McCloskey's discovery of these changes, and his subsequent "Coin World" article of July 2nd, 1980, I was bombarded with questions.

I have since done some research into the hub changes and found some interesting information.

The original hub was described as Type I {1892-1900} with the obverse displaying the leaves in Liberty's wreath with rounded tips, the leaf below the "S" in STATES as distant, and the "N" in UNITED touching the ribbon.

The new hub was described as Type II {1901-1916} with the obverse differences being the leaves in Liberty's wreath are more pointed, the leaf below the "S" in STATES is close, and the "N" in UNITED is away from the ribbon.



Obverse Type I



Obverse Type II

When I examined photo's of the 1891 pattern Barber dime {1760} I found the obverse displays the pointed leaves, close to the "S" identical to Type II. The "N" however touches the ribbon similar to type I, yet the entire word UNITED is slightly lower, closer to the date.

This leads to an interesting question. Why would Barber make a new hub, {the Type I} when he had a hub and working die on hand to make the 1891 pattern dime? Why then would he make a new hub, {Type II} in 1901 and more closely follow his pattern coin, then his 1892 hub?

The plot thickens as we examine the reverse of the Barber dime. The only noticeable change in the reverse hub was the ribbon below the bow. The Type I has a thin ribbon were as the Type II has a thicker ribbon with an extra fold. This distinctive thick ribbon as seen on the Type II reverse closely follows the thick ribbon used by James Longacre on his cereal wreath design in 1860. When William Barber took over Longacre's



Reverse Type I



Reverse Type II

duties at the mint, he made modifications to the cereal wreath, however, the thick ribbon remained unchanged. Examining the 1891 pattern dime, we quickly see the thick ribbon with the extra fold.

One might suggest that the pattern hub may have been polished making the ribbon appear thin, the leaves tips rounded and distant from the "S" in STATES on the obverse. However, it would be difficult to explain the position of the word UNITED on the 1891 pattern dime, which is different from Type I or II.

Questions like these abound in the numismatic field, leaving researchers trying to piece together answers with fragments of information. Often times just opinions, ideas, or theories can lead researchers down a different path when it comes to looking for answers. ❖





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A GROUP OF 1911-D DIMES

By J. Clemous

About two years ago I had the opportunity to purchase an accumulation of coins from an estate. A friend called to inform me that an aunt had passed away and her son and daughter needed to sell some coins and liked the idea of selling them to a collector. Among the coins were 11 dimes dated 1911-D. They were all similar with luster. I sent 4 of them to PCI and they came back AU from 50 to 58. Therre is no doubt the other seven are also AU-50 or better.

The coin that came back AU-58 had a note of a D/D mint mark. I have since sold the coin to a local club member who wanted to up-grade his type set. Of the other coins 3 have characteristics worth noting, all involving die cracks.

#1. has numerous die cracks on the reverse; left side- rim to middle of large leaf. Tip of large leaf to corn stalk. Upper most corn ear to rim. Right side- 1st outside wheat stalk to rim.

#2. Reverse die cracks, left side- from rim to tip of large leaf. Crack from rim to middle of outside leaf of corn stalk.

#3. The last of these is a coin that came back from PCI with a notation of AU detail, net XF-45-filed rim. I cracked the coin out of the holder to see what was referenced. There are two places on the rim where the reeding is missing and some diagonal file marks {?} exist, each area is about 1/4" to 3/8" long. I had sent this coin in because of the obverse. On the left side from the rim to and through the 1st S in STATES is a die crack. The inner lower loop of the S has a cud on it. The edge of the coin where the crack starts is the location of one of those filed edges. On the reverse of this coin on the left side opposite the 1st S in STATES is an area rather flat with not much detail.

I was told these coins that I purchased were all from the aunt's mother through her husband who was a banker at the turn of the century. Because of this and the equal condition of these coins, I think they were taken from a roll and became AU because of the storage. ❖

Editors note; The cud on the S is most interesting as I have seen very few Barber dimes with cuds of any kind. The file marks{?} are unknown to me, unless this coin saw use as a jewelry piece. Any of our readers who have any ideas about coin #3, drop me a note and I will place it in the Letters to the Editor Section, to answer this question. ❖



TRENDS ARE UP!

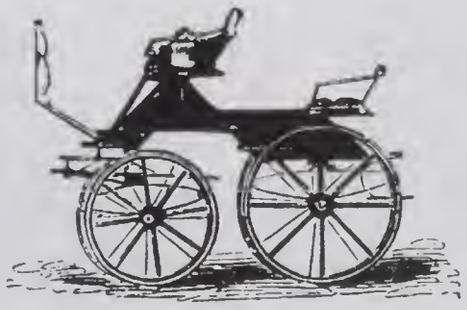
by Jack White

Prices are up for some key and semi-key Barbers in all three silver series. "Coin World" trends, "Numismatic News" "Coin Market", and the "Dealer Gray Sheet" have all increased values for certain dates.

Let's start with Barber dimes. The key 1895-O is now $170 in Good at the wholesale level and $225 in trends. The 1892-S, 1897-O, 1901-S, and 1904-S have increased in Good 10% or more since November. These and other tough dates experienced spectacular price rises in the Fine grade a few years ago. Now the more available grades of Good and Very Good are on the move as well. The 1900-O was up over 13% in these grades in "Coin Market" since October.

The elusive 1897-S quarter has posted impressive gains over the past nine months. Prices are up averaging 15% from Good through Very Fine, with a 28% gain in Fine. These are dealer wholesale prices, which have allowed this date to surpass the 1914-S in Fine and Very Fine. The 1897-S now ranks fourth in price in the series, trailing only the big three, the 1896-S, 1901-S and the 1913-S. As a later series date the 1914-S was saved as Barber coinage ended in 1916. "Coin Market" trends reflect the difficulty in finding these Mid-grade examples. It has the 97-S valued 35% to 39% higher in Fine and Very Fine than the 14-S. In October the difference between these two dates in these grades was only 11% to 15%.

The biggest increase in value recently is the spectacular rise of the rare 1892-O "micro-O" half. "Coin World" trends has raised all ten of its prices in Good through Mint State-63. The king of Barber varieties, with about twenty known, Examples are now valued at $1750 in Good, the same price as the 1901-S quarter. Values jumped from 17% in Good to 105% in AU--55! The grade of XF jumped a minimum of 57%. As impressive as these gains are, "Numismatic News Coin Market" has the coin priced even higher, significantly higher in all grades but Good. The five grades from Very Good through AU-50 trends 31% to 106% higher than its "Coin World" counterpart! A-PCGS specimen graded Very Good was recently offered at full "Coin Market" trends of $3450. This rarity will always demand full retail. The normal mint mark 1892-O half is on the rise as well. It is now priced 15% higher than the 1892-S in Good. It is the first non-variety Barber half to top the $100 price in the lowly grade of Good at the wholesale level. ❖



INSCRIPTIONS; WORDS THAT PROSPER

By Russell Easterbrooks

Henry David Thoreau once said; "The written word is the choicest of relies." One obscure area of research that studies words is known as Epigraphy, the study of inscriptions. Inscriptions are proudly displayed on a wide array of stone and metal objects, from tombstones and statues, to coins and commemorative medals. Sometimes in Latin, these inscriptions have survived decades, and speak with great precision about early people and culture. Even today's movies, the ultimate in visionary special effects, use inscriptions such as, "Space, the final frontier" to create a definition of an endless adventure. Words are the key for inscriptions to prosper. Our own word Money, dates back to before Christ, and is derived from the French word, "Monnaie" which comes from the Latin, "Moneta', meaning mint where coins are struck.

Coins contain numerous inscriptions, also known as legends or mottos. Coins of colonial times saw the use of many inscriptions, often in abbreviated Latin words such as; ET LIB INDE, meaning "Independence and Liberty," NOVA CAESAREA, "New Jersey," VERMON AUCTORI, "By authority of the Green Mountain People," and countless others. Surprisingly, even today a Latin inscription remains on our coins; E PLURIBUS UNUM, "One Made Up Of Many." This durable inscription saw use early in our country's history.

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With the establishment of the United States Mint, this inscription could be seen on gold coins entering circulation around 1797. Mint engraver Robert Scot utilized the inscription *E Pluribus Unum*, as part of his design adaptation of the Great Seal of the United States. Scot's design, known as the Heraldic Eagle, has been used on more coin denominations than any other to date. *E Pluribus Unum* remained in use on varying designs amongst our coins until 1831. Than

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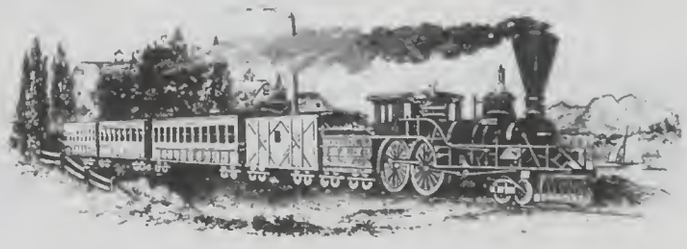
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Mint Director, Samuel Moore ordered the mint's engraver, William Kneass, successor to Robert Scot, to omit *E Pluribus Unum* from the new quarter design, as redundant to the phrase United States. When the Treasury Department protested, Moore traveled to Washinton D.C. to justify his action. Moore's argument must have convinced the Treasury Department, as this was the beginning of a departure from the use of the Latin inscription on our coins for a time. Many different mint engravers created numerous new coin designs during subsequent years with out the use of *E Pluribus Unum*. It wasn't until 1883 when mint engraver Charles Barber reintroduced the inscription as part of his Liberty nickel design. Years later Barber continued use of the inscription on his 1892 designed quarter and half dollar. These designs interestingly, are an adaptation of the Great Seal of the United States, which Robert Scot had used as inspiration.

By 1907 engraver Augustus Saint-Gaudens, who is considered to have designed the most beautiful of United States coins, with his gold Double Eagle, used the words *E Pluribus Unum* for the first time on the edge of a coin. Regardless of where the inscription resides on our coinage it proudly exclaims; "One Made Up Of Many," the United States of America.

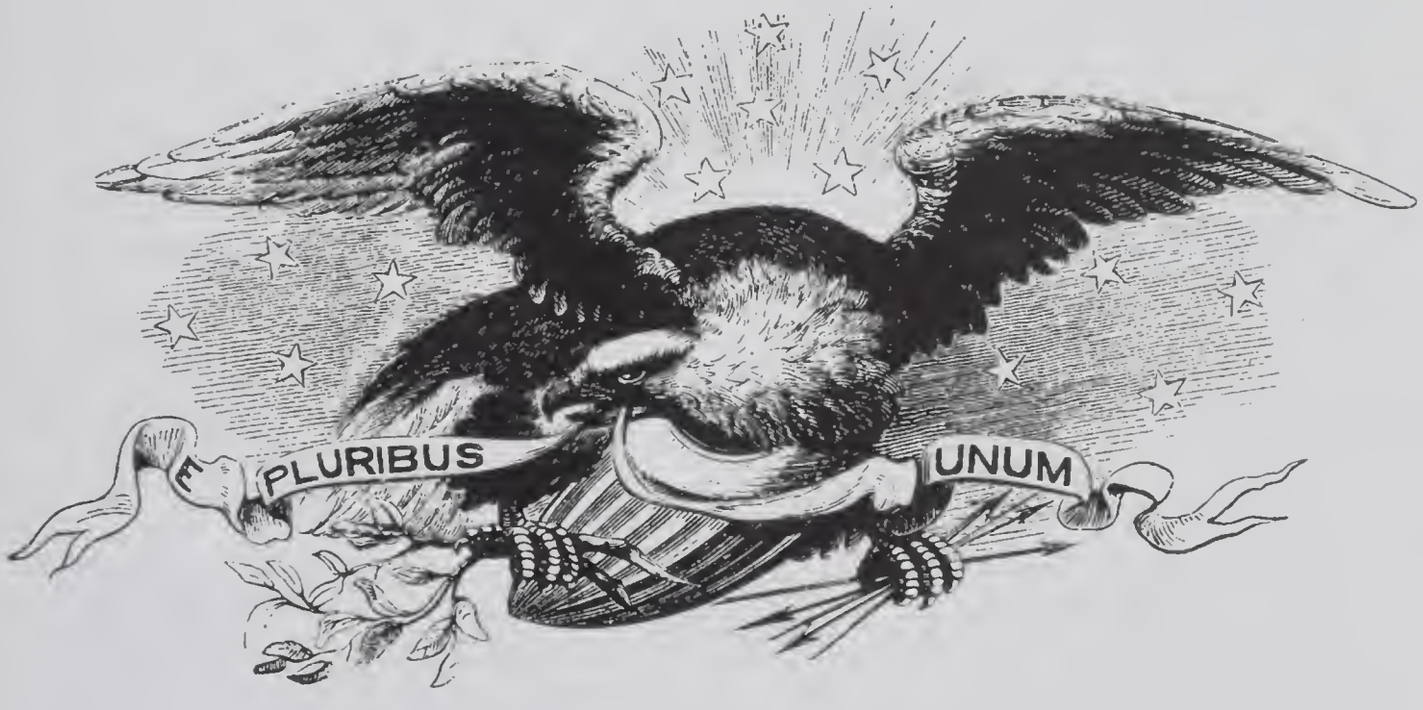
Another inscription seen on today's coins is; In God We Trust, which originated during the 1860's. On November 13, 1861 Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase received a letter from Rev. M.R. Watkinson proposing addition of a religious motto to our coinage. It is believed that this letter, which was on display at the Chase Manhatten Bank Money Museum for many years; led to Chase's choice of the words In God We Trust years later.

On December 8, 1863 Mint Director James Pollock submitted to Treasury Secretary Chase two designs for the proposed two cent piece. After considering the designs, he chose the shield and arrows design, but stated the motto, God Our Trust, must be changed to In God We Trust. Walter Breen's research on the topic led him to believe that Chase's choice of words may have been influenced by his alma mater's motto, *In Deo Speramus*, meaning "In God We Hope." The two cent piece was finalized and became law April 22, 1864. This became the first coin to display the inscription In God We Trust. By 1865 Congress had passed an act authorizing that all gold and silver coins of suitable size would bear the inscription. Other coin designs saw the addition of the Motto, and the Morgan Dollar of 1878 was the first coin to carry both In God We Trust and *E Pluribus Unum*. This was followed by Charles Barber's quarter and half dollar designs of 1892. It is interesting to note, that engravers Barber and Morgan chose to omit these two inscriptions from their desgns used for this country's first commemorative coins in 1892.



In 1907, then President Theodore Roosevelt gave a Presidential order omitting, In God We Trust from new coin designs of that year. Roosevelt a deeply religious man believed that placing the name of God on our country's coinage was a disgrace amounting to blasphemy. There had been misgivings which accompanied the original addition of In God We Trust to our coins in 1865. Mock slogans sprang up like, "In Gold We Trust" and "In God We Trust, All Others Must Pay Cash." Strong public concern fueled a furious Congress to order the motto restored to our coinage, as mandated by the act of March 3, 1865. It is amazing the powerful feelings inscriptions can invoke.

Some years ago while researching area cemetery stones, I observed an interesting inscription that has remained with me to this day; "Prepare to follow me." The profound way with which inscriptions speak is a tribute to mankind's vision into the past as well as the future. ❖



MY FIRST BARBER COIN

by Brian Bomer

My very first recollection of owning a Barber coin is from a Spring day in the early 1970. I was in my early teens and was trying to earn some money doing some yard work for an older lady who lived down the street from our house. While weeding and cleaning fallen leaves from her hedge I noticed something odd looking in the debris. Upon closer inspection, it turned out to be a dime. It was scratched and scarred and dated 1912. I had recently been introduced to coin collecting by my father, so I knew right away what it was. How did it get there? How long had it been there? Probably quite a while given its abused condition. I had cleaned and pruned this hedge several times before, how did I happen to come across the coin this time?

This particular house is at the main intersection of my very small hometown in Ohio. It is right at the heart of it's former downtown business section. Who lost it? When? After some thought, I dutifully showed Mrs. Richardson what I'd found. She immediately told me that I could keep it if I wanted to. Oh boy, did I ever! She then began telling me what our little town was like during the time that this dime would have circulated. What stores there were, what 10 cents would have bought, how long she would have had to work to earn "that much money." This was especially interesting when she pointed out that she was about my age then. To this day, these types of things are what make coin collecting so fascinating and interesting to me.

I no longer have this coin. It was sold several years ago along with other junk silver to help purchase a 1916-D Mercury dime. This coin may be gone but, I still have a very vivid and pleasant memory of this surprising discovery. ❖

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

Remember your articles submissions automatically enter you in the BCCS Literary Contest. The article receiving the most member votes will win a 1st place prize of $50, second prize will be $25, and third place will be a free BCCS one year membership. So, make sure your membership is up to date, and get your article in the mail to Russell at the address on page one.

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